



STATE OF WASHINGTON
DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL AND HEALTH SERVICES
Aging and Long-Term Support Administration
P.O. Box 45600, Olympia, Washington 98504-5600

October 28, 2021

ALTSA: AFH #2021-059
ALTSA: ALF #2021-059
ALTSA: CCRSS #2021-054
ALTSA: ICF/IID #2021-050
ALTSA: ESF #2021-053
ALTSA: NH #2021-084
NURSING FACILITY COVID UNITS

Dear Provider/Administrator/Superintendent:

The Department of Social and Health Services (DSHS) has contracted with multiple nursing facilities to establish dedicated units to care for residents with a confirmed COVID-19+ diagnosis. The intent of establishing these units is to allow COVID-19+ residents from other residential care or acute care settings to move to a setting where they can receive appropriate care in an environment where there will be less risk of COVID-19 virus transmission to other residents and staff.

Effective November 1, 2021, multiple nursing facilities across the state will have dedicated COVID-19+ units ([COVID Unit Directory](#)). These dedicated COVID-19 units will be available through December 31, 2021.

Nursing facilities contracted with DSHS to provide these services will meet the following criteria:

1. Provide Nursing Facility services to treat patients who have received a positive diagnosis for the COVID-19 virus;
2. Assure that all the care needs of the resident are being met including any monitoring of COVID-19 related symptoms and treatments according to guidelines from the CDC and the WA DOH;
3. Provide services to COVID-19+ residents in a stand-alone building that is not connected by hallways or any other structure or building where care is provided to patients who have not received a COVID-19 positive diagnosis, OR, a unit that can be physically isolated from the rest of the facility by barriers that reduce airflow between the two areas;
4. The location shall have a separate ingress and egress to the specialty care area that no other staff or subcontractors use;
5. The ability to reduce risk of virus spread due to aerosolizing procedures; and
6. Have dedicated staff caring for residents within the COVID-19 Unit and prohibit these staff from working in other care facilities or the general population of the same care facility for 14 days, with exceptions allowed for examinations of residents by medical providers when necessary.

Dear Provider: Nursing Facility COVID Units

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The Department's intent is to partner with the facility where the resident lives and is transferring from, the resident and their representative as appropriate, the local health jurisdiction and acute care hospital discharge planners to move COVID-19+ residents to nursing facilities where they can receive high quality care meeting all of their care needs, while minimizing the risk of spreading the virus.

Entities seeking admission for a resident(s) into a COVID-19 Unit should contact the nursing facility directly to coordinate on the admission process. Once a resident has recovered and has met the recommended COVID-19 recovery criteria, they will return to their original nursing facility or other residential facility. For contract or programmatic questions regarding the COVID-19 units, please contact Stephanie VanPelt at stephanie.vanpelt@dshs.wa.gov.

More information: [CMS COVID Blanket Waivers for Healthcare Providers Extension of Proclamation 21-15 Related to the Transfer and Discharge of Nursing Home Residents](#)

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Mike Anbesse". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Mike" and last name "Anbesse" clearly distinguishable.

Mike Anbesse, Director
Residential Care Services

DSHS: "Transforming Lives"